

*part of
65***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: Robert A. Luciano and Raymond G. Bryan

Serial number: 09/596,650

5 Filed: June 19, 2000

Title: PRINTER TEAR BAR AND PRESENTER SYSTEM

Attorney docket number: 732.400 SDG.CON-Printer Tear Bar System

Group Number: 3724

10 Examiner: Flores-Sanchez, Omar

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

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PROPOSED AMENDMENT C

In response to the office action mailed on April 11, 2002, the applicants request for a telephonic interview with Examiner Omar Flores-Sanchez to discuss this Proposed Amendment C.

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Subject to examiner's review and discussion with the applicants, the applicants intend to amend claims 22, 30, and 32 to the following:

22. (Amended) A tear bar system comprising:

(A) a strip of media, the media comprising:

25

(a) a surface;

(b) a first side;

(c) a second side;

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September 24, 2002

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TO: Omar Flores-Sanchez

FAX #: (703) 746-3290

COMPANY: United States Patent and Trademark Office

FROM: Rolando J. Tong

RE: Serial No. 09/596,650

OUR REFERENCE: 732.400: SDG.CON-Printer Tear Bar System

Number of pages including this cover page: 6

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☐ URGENT ☐ PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN ☐ PLEASE REVIEW AND COMMENT ☐ PLEASE REPLY

Dear Examiner Flores-Sanchez:
I'll call you to schedule a telephonic interview.

Sincerely,
Rolando J. Tong

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- (d) a center portion between the first and second side; and
- (e) a plurality of perforations, the perforations being separated by a plurality of bridges of connecting material;
- (B) a tear bar, the tear bar comprising:
 - 5 (a) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the media in close relative proximity to a first bridge of connecting material and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal force is applied to the media, wherein the first side portion comprises a tapered surface, wherein the height of the tear bar decreases as the tear bar is
10 traversed in the direction from the first side of the strip of media towards the center portion of the strip of media;
 - (b) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the media in close relative proximity to a second bridge of connecting material and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal
15 force is applied to the media; and
 - (c) wherein the tear bar [and the strip of media are] remains in a fixed position [relative to each other] during separation of the strip of media.

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30. (Amended) A method of separating a piece of media from a strip of media, the method comprising the following steps:

(A) providing a strip of media, the media comprising:

- 5 (a) a surface;
 (b) a first side;
 (c) a second side;
 (d) a center portion; and
 (e) an end portion;

10 (B) providing a tear bar, the tear bar comprising:

- (a) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the media and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal force is applied to the media, wherein the first side portion comprises a tapered surface, wherein the height of the tear bar decreases as the tear bar is
15 traversed in the direction from the first edge of the strip of media towards the center portion of the strip of media; and

- (b) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the media and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal force is applied to the media;

20 (C) positioning the strip of media, wherein the first side is positioned in close relative proximity to the first side portion and the second side is positioned in close relative proximity to the second side portion; and

 (D) applying a longitudinal force to the end portion of the strip of media, wherein the first side portion and the second side portion abut the surface of the strip of media

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and resist the longitudinal movement of the strip of media, wherein the tear bar
[and the strip of media are] remains in a fixed position [relative to each other],
and wherein a strain is created in the strip of media.

5 32. The method of claim 31 wherein the second side portion is adapted to abut the surface of
the strip of media in close relative proximity to a second bridge of connecting material.

- Claims 22 and 30 and their dependent claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, as it
was not clear to the examiner how the strip of media can be in a fixed position relative to
10 the tear bar, when it is in the process of separation. Claims 22 and 30 have been amended
above to address this issue, and the applicants would like to discuss the amended claims
22 and 30 in light of the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection.
- Claims 22, 23, 26, 28, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Saito et
al. During the interview, the applicants would like to present an argument that Saito et al.
15 does not disclose, teach, or suggest a tear bar being in a fixed position during the
separation of the strip of media. The tear bar in Saito et al. utilizes a bursting action to
separate the media.
- Claims 22 and 30 and their dependent claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in
view of Ishii et al. and Michalovic. The applicants would like to present the following
20 arguments during the interview:
 - The combination of Michalovic and Ishii et al. is improper. Michalovic teaches
away from using a dispensing apparatus having a tear surface of varying diameter,
such as in Ishii, because the apparatus in Michalovic is for dispensing labels,
which have more tendencies to stick to the uneven tear surface than a dispensing

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apparatus with uniform tear surface, making it difficult and expensive to dispense labels. See column 1, lines 28-34

- Michalovic teaches away from using the blades of Ishii, as the concentrating structures must be cleaned often to prevent build up of adhesive. Column 1, lines 33-37.

- Michalovic and Ishii et al. do not teach “perforations being separated by a plurality of bridges of connecting material” (Claim 22(A)(e)). Thus, Michalovic and Ishii et al. do not have a “first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the media in close relative proximity to a first bridge of connecting material” (Claim 22(B)(a)) and a “second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the media in close relative proximity to a second bridge of connecting material.” (Claim 22(B)(b))

- Michalovic and Ishii et al. do not teach a tear bar having “a tapered surface, wherein the height of the tear bar decreases as the tear bar is traversed in the direction from the first side of the strip of media towards the center portion of the strip of media” (Claim 22(B)(a)) (Claim 30(B)(a)). Michalovic has a uniform surface. Ishii et al. discloses a tear bar having AN INCREASING HEIGHT.

If the examiner has any questions regarding the application or this response, the examiner is encouraged to call the applicants’ attorney, Rolando J. Tong, at (775) 826-6160. The applicants look forward to having an interview with Examiner Omar Flores-Sanchez.